Synopsis

REPRESENTING VICTIMIZATION AND HUMAN VIOLENCE: A STUDY OF HAN KANG'S SELECT NOVELS

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Introduction:

The theme of victimization, violence and brutality has often been explored in literature and forms crucial aspects in any society. Victimization is outcome of deliberate action taken by a person or institution to exploit, oppress or harm another or to destroy or illegally obtain another's possessions. The Latin word *victima* means sacrificial animal, but the term victim has evolved to include a variety of targets, including oneself, another individual, a household or the environment. The act committed by the offender is usually a violation of a civil statute but doesn't necessarily have to violate a law. Harm can include psychological, emotional damage, physical or sexual injury or economic loss. The victimization is based on violence, exploitation and manipulation of the truth. It has been addressed and will continue to be addressed in works of literature that explore the role of violence and brutality in human society.

The basic goal of work is that explore the theme of victimization, violence and brutality which shown in the select novels. The works of Han Kang depict the life and the social issues in South Korea. The novelist tries to figure out how the characters face the problems and ultimately lead to destruction. The disintegration of society and the lack of positive optimism is the tone of the novelist. The proposed research will explore the social, economical, racial and cultural differences through the novels of Han Kang. The select works are *The Vegetarian (2015), Human Acts* (2016) and *The White Book (2017).* The selected three works portray the theme of victimization. The research aims unearthing such themes of victimization reflected in various forms.

Han Kang (born 1970) is widely known in the entire literary sphere for her writing style that dealt with current universal problems like victimization, isolation, human violence, brutality, fall out of family and eroticism. She has won the Yi Sang Literary Prize in 2005. She has received *Today's Young Artist Award* and *the Korean Literature Novel Award*. She also got very important literary award *Man Booker International Prize-2016* for her masterpiece *The Vegetarian*. Her novel *Human Acts* won the Manhae Literary award.

Objectives of Research:

i. To evaluate Korean Literature in English through translation.

ii. To explore socio-political and cultural consciousness in concern of select novels by Han Kang

iii. To assess and examine the select novels in context with theme of victimization.

iv. To understand Korean socio-cultural milieu.

Research Methodology:

The proposed research will be pursued by using the basic methods of literary research such as close reading, interpretation, explication, analysis and evaluation. However, the main object of is to understand the theme of victimization in light of novels of Han Kang. It is criticized with the help of various print and electronic secondary sources of the select topics.

Hypotheses:

The present research would be based on the assumption:

i. The fictional world of Han Kang reflects Korean socio-cultural milieu.

ii. The novels of Han Kang explore the theme of violence and brutality.

iii. The novels of Han Kang depict the family fall out and moral degradation.

v. The fictional world of Han Kang represents victimization of human.

vi. The novels of Han Kang portrays theme of assertiveness and dominance.

The Scope and Limitation of Research:

The broad area of the present study is Korean Fiction in English through translation. The novels of Han Kang are selected for the analysis in perspectives of understanding human victimization. The present study will be confined to four novels of Han Kang. The select novels are *Human Acts* (2014), *The White Book (2016)* and *The Vegetarian (2015)*.

Justification of Research:

The Korean writer Han Kang is a prize winner novelist. She has received prestigious Man Booker International Prize-2016 for her masterpiece *The Vegetarian*. Han Kang has not received adequate critical attention by the researchers. This proposed research, therefore, assumes

significance in attempting to trace various forms of victimization. The understanding of novels of Han Kang is of greater relevance today.

Tentative Chapter Scheme:

The present research work study will be organized around the following tentative chapter scheme.

Chapter I: Introduction

The first chapter, Introduction, will deal with the contextual background of Korean Literature in English in general and Korean English Fiction in particular. It will also cover the biographical details of Han Kang. In addition, it covers contribution of Han Kang to the world fiction and her place in the Korean literature. It ends with review of research and recent development in Korean literature in English.

Chapter II: Representing Victimization and Human Violence: A Study of Han Kang's *The Vegetarian*

The second chapter will deal with the representation of victimization and human violence of Yeong-hye. She had dream that she has convinced her to cease eating any meat whatsoever, and finds that such a decision is affect nearly all aspects of her life.

Chapter III: Representing Victimization and Human Violence: A Study of Han Kang's *Human Acts*

The third chapter will explore representation of victimization and human violence of a fifteen year old boy, Dong - ho waiting for rainstorm and for the return of the military which has filled his city with dead bodies and separated from his best friend.

Chapter IV: Representing Victimization and Human Violence: A Study of Han Kang's *The White Book*

The fourth chapter will examine various forms of victimization and human violence in Kang's *The White Book.* It is a haunting story about violence at Warsaw city. The narrator reminds of

her elder sister, died after two hours of being born. Every white thing that she encounters brings alive ghost of her sister.

Chapter V: Summing up

The last chapter will bring argument of earlier chapters in order to understand victimization and human violence in the select works of Han Kang.

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